Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered by the Examiner. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-24 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 25-43 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification and original claims.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 25-43 are pending in the application, with claims 25, 36 and 37 being the independent claims.

Applicants respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 be entered by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

tw Esmone

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Attorney for Applicants

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Date: May 4, 200

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims

Please cancel claims 1-24.

Please add claims 25-43.